

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Daily News, Sept. 25, 2001]

CONVENE CONGRESS IN NEW YORK

In today's primary election—so savagely interrupted two weeks ago—pundits are predicting an abysmal turnout. But today, New Yorkers, you have even more reason to go to the polls. Not only will you help to select candidates for one of the most critical elections in the city's history, you will be sending a message that our representative democracy still stands tall—the democracy that terrorists are intent on destroying.

New York was targeted because this city represents America. The U.S. Congress also represents America—figuratively and literally. So herewith, a proposal: Congress should assemble in New York City for a special session.

The duration doesn't matter—a day would be enough. What matters is that, by meeting here, Congress would show the city, the nation and the world that it stands in solidarity with New York, and that the strikes against the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were strikes against an America that has emerged stronger than ever. An America united in its determination to eradicate terrorism. Indeed, the 535 members of the House and Senate could use the New York session to pass a resolution or legislation related to this new war we are waging. For it is Congress assembled that represents America.

Holding a special session here would be unprecedented, but there is nothing in the Constitution or federal law or the rules of Congress that dictates where the House and Senate shall convene. In its history, the only time Congress traveled was during the Revolution, when it fled the British. This time, it would not be fleeing, but charging into action—and doing so at the scene of the worst enemy attack ever on American soil.

Since the terror murder of thousands Sept. 11, President Bush and key members of Congress have visited the city to witness firsthand the destruction, the heroism and the stoicism. Forty members of the Senate came as a group. Consider the emotional and symbolic impact of the entire Congress assembling in New York.

And the meeting place? Perhaps the Javits Center or Governors Island or Liberty Island. Or somewhere downtown near the scene of the carnage. There would be obstacles involving logistics and security, but they can be overcome, as they were when the President and the Senate delegation visited. This proposal can be brought to fruition.

In the context of U.S. history, there are strong parallels for Congress coming to New York. The city was the home of the Continental Congress beginning in 1785. And when the federal Constitution was adopted, the first Congress met here in 1789. George Washington was sworn into office downtown, blocks from what is now Ground Zero. The first meetings of the House of Representatives and the Senate were held here.

Though the official seat of power remained in New York for only about a year, during that time the basic functions of the U.S. government were set in place. It was in New York that Congress wrote the Bill of Rights and submitted the amendments to the states. It was in New York that the Supreme Court was established. And it was in New York, on another Sept. 11—in 1789—that the Senate voted to confirm the first administration's first cabinet member: New Yorker Alexander Hamilton as treasury secretary.

In 1790, Congress moved to Philadelphia, and 10 years later to its new Capitol building in the nation's new capital city of Wash-

ington. The last time Congress did not meet at the Capitol was during the War of 1812, when the British burned the building. That was also the last time—until Sept. 11, 2001—that a foreign enemy struck the American mainland.

For generations, America was protected by two broad oceans. No more. We have become a battleground. We are making history anew. And with a simple, yet far-reaching action, Congress can come to New York and write a new chapter in the indelible ink of national fortitude. Congress already has acted to assist our wounded city, approving \$20 billion in aid for New York, with more likely to follow. What we ask for here is symbolic. Just as the terrorists chose the World Trade Center and Pentagon as symbols, America should render its own symbol—of unity, strength and resolve such as the world has never seen.

SOBERING STATISTICS ON CHILDREN AND GUNS

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise to enter into the RECORD a few facts about guns and children. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, every 7 hours a child or teen was killed in a firearm-related accident or suicide in 1999. From 1994–1999, an average of five children died every day in non-homicide firearm incidents. In the same period, more than 2,100 children were killed in firearm accidents. In the 1990s, an average of 1,370 kids committed suicide with a firearm each year. More than 150 each year were children under the age of fifteen. In 1997, hospital emergency rooms treated four children with gun shot wounds for every child killed with a firearm. And a 1997 CDC study reported that the overall firearm-related death rate among children in the United States who are less than fifteen years old was nearly twelve times higher than among children in twenty-five other industrialized countries combined.

These sobering statistics remind us of the importance of strengthening our gun laws to limit children's access to guns. I urge my fellow Senators to join me in support of meaningful gun safety legislation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL DONALD E. FLEMING

• Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize an American who has honorably served our Nation for 28 years: Colonel Donald E. Fleming, U.S. Marine Corps. Colonel Fleming has served with distinction, throughout wartime and in times of peace. In 1990 and 1991, during the Gulf War, Colonel Fleming served as the executive officer to a Harrier Attack Squadron in support of Marine ground troops in Operation Desert Storm. He was involved in numerous sorties against Iraqi forces, which enabled ground combat troops to successfully attack and take Iraqi forces. This was a highly dangerous task as Marine air-

craft were constantly exposed to enemy fire. Colonel Fleming was prepared to give his life for those Marines on the ground to be successful in completing their missions.

Colonel Fleming's last assignment was as the deputy legislative assistant to the Commandant of the Marine Corps. This was a highly responsible assignment in that the Colonel served not only the Commandant of the Marine Corps, a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, but the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate as well. Colonel Fleming was thoroughly involved with ensuring that the numerous congressional inquiries were completed in a timely and correct manner. This is a large task, especially during the hearing season, when Members of Congress and their staffs address many questions and concerns to the military departments. Additionally, Colonel Fleming was responsible for the final coordination of significant congressional and staff delegations that took place literally all over the world.

I thank Don for his unswerving dedication to serving the U.S. Congress. He has served our Nation and the U.S. Congress in the finest traditions of the U.S. Marine Corps. I wish Don well in his future endeavors as he enters a new phase of his life. Colonel Fleming's service to his country and his Corps has been laudatory. I am deeply appreciative that we have Marines like Colonel Fleming, who are of such high caliber and sincere conviction. May God bless Colonel Don Fleming and his family, and may fair winds and following seas follow Colonel Fleming throughout his new career.●

IN RECOGNITION OF THE EUGENE M. LANG I HAVE A DREAM FOUNDATION

• Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, today, I would like to recognize a remarkable individual whose efforts rank high among those that have marked the great history of this Nation. Eugene M. Lang is a dedicated philanthropist and supporter of education. His selflessness, sense of pride, and love for his country have been demonstrated in his commitment to the present and the future of young people all across America, through his I Have a Dream Foundation. This weekend, November 15–17, 2001, Mr. Lang and the Foundation will celebrate 20 years of education achievement.

The path leading up to 20 years of education successes began on June 25, 1981. It was then that Eugene Lang, a New York businessman would return to his old elementary school, P.S. 121, in East Harlem to address the graduating sixth-graders. His original plan was to deliver a standard message that if you worked hard you would succeed. However, after arriving at his alma mater, he was told that his old school had changed—that 75 percent of P.S. 121's children would never graduate from high school, and that even those who